Recent advances in accelerated longitudinal designs to study psychological development.

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Keywords: accelerated longitudinal design; structural equation modeling; continuous time modeling; cognitive development

Studying the long-term course of psychological processes is a challenging endeavor. Accelerated longitudinal designs (ALD) allow capturing such periods in a much shorter time framework. In ALDs, participants from different cohorts are measured repeatedly but the measures provided by each participant cover only a fraction of the time range of the study. It is then assumed that the common trajectory can be studied by aggregating the information provided by the different converging cohorts.

In this communication, I present ALDs and discuss their effectiveness for longitudinal research. I present the main results of a set of recent studies, which support the application of ALDs in a broad set of conditions (Estrada & Ferrer, 2019; Estrada, Hamagami, & Ferrer, 2020; Estrada, Bunge, & Ferrer, 2021). I provide several recommendations on how to design such studies, and briefly introduce several statistical innovations to characterize the developmental trajectories of interest.